

9-9-1893

Stephen D. Lee Papers

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Claim for salary

Allegheny Arsenal,

Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 9, 1893.

Mr. R. C. King, Secy -

Miss A. & M. College,

My dear King -

I enclose herewith bill and letter addressed to Executive Committee. Please lay the matter before the committee at its first meeting and let me know the result. The letter is quite moderate compared with my feelings - The more I think of it, the madder I get.

We leave here today for the Fair - will return on the 25th. I see that Steele has been ordered to the College - Hope you will like him -

With regards to all -

Yours,
Geo. W. Burr

Allegheny Arsenal,

Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 15, 1893.

The Executive Committee,

Board of Trustees,

Miss. A. & M. College,

(Thro' Gen. S. H. Lee, President)

Gentlemen:-

I have the honor to present herewith a bill for \$157²⁶, The unpaid portion of my salary as Asst. Prof. of Mathematics for the session of 1892-93. I respectfully request that you allow the bill and direct its payment.

I was employed as Asst. Prof. of Math. for the session of 1892-93 at a salary of \$800⁰⁰ per year. I performed all the duties of Asst. Prof. for the year to the best of my ability and, I believe, to the satisfaction of my superiors and, having done so, I am justly entitled to a year's pay for the work.

The fact that I am an army officer and that I

was relieved from duty as military professor at the college during the summer vacation should not enter into this matter. At commencement, in June of this year, I received permission from the President to leave college for the summer vacation. After that but before I could get away from the college, the War Dept. order relieved me from duty as military professor at the college. That order affected my military status at the college but had nothing whatever to do with the private agreement relating to my services in the mathematical department. Under that agreement at the time referred to (about July 1, 1893) I had certain rights (i.e. - salary earned and unpaid) and no action, either of the War Dept. or of the college authorities, could deprive me of them. The college authorities certainly do not claim that they have the right to make an agreement for services, receive all the services agreed upon, then declare the agreement at an end and thus avoid paying for the services; yet, it seems to me, that that is just what they would be doing in refusing to pay this bill. As Asst. Prof. of Math. I was to perform certain duties for which I was to receive certain pay. Having performed all of those

duties, I became entitled to the pay and I now have a just claim for the unpaid part.

Had I not been relieved from military duty at the college, or had the order relieving me not been issued until Sept. 15, or had I been a civilian, I would have received during the summer all the pay I am now claiming although I would not have done a particle more work for the college. In other words, the money, thus paid during the summer, would have been paid for my services during the last session of school. Why, may I ask, should those services not be paid for under the present circumstances?

I understand that this bill has not been paid by the Sec'y on account of some college rule (requiring monthly payments) which was evidently intended to apply to the professors, etc., in the industrial departments of the college. I grant the wisdom of such a rule even though it has worked a hardship upon me in depriving me of the use of money which I have earned. Now, however, I have waited until this money is due according to your rule and I think I should be paid without further delay.

As stated before, The War Dept order did not affect my

status as Asst. Prof. of Math. and surely should not affect ~~my~~ ^{my} pay as such. If it be argued that this bill should not be paid because I am no longer connected with the college, I can very properly claim that my status during the summer has been ~~that~~ ^{that} of Asst. Prof. of Math. at your college on leave of absence by verbal permission of the President. This is the case for the reason that I have never been notified, officially or otherwise, that my services in the Dept. of Math. are no longer desired by the college. I therefore maintain that I ^{now} have not merely an equitable but a legal right to the amount claimed.

Knowing that you have the power to decide this matter definitely as far as the college authorities are concerned, I sincerely trust that you will exercise that power without delay. I submit it to your decision, confident that careful consideration will convince you of the justice of my claim and of the impropriety of longer withholding from me my wages.

Yours very respectfully,

Geo. W. Burr,
U. S. Army.